

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IGA-02 FDRE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02

DIWY-01 HEW-06 /159 W

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P R 152122Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0871

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 05927

ROME FOR FODAG, PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP. EAID, UK

SUBJECT: DONOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPU-
LATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

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REF: STATE 58729

1. SUMMARY: THERE IS A GROWING AWARENESS WITHIN HMG OF IMPORTANCE OF POPULATION PROGRAMS OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY (ODM) BUDGET WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN REAL TERMS WITH POPULATION PROGRAMS CLAIMING A GROWING PERCENTAGE OF THE INCREASE. PRESENTLY TWO-THIRDS OF UK POPULATION ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS PATTERN IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE. FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO REFTEL IS KEYED TO SUB ITEMS OF PARA 3 REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. (A) FOR PERIOD 1973-76 UK ODA TOTALED JUST OVER L.2 BILLION POUNDS. OF THIS ONLY 6.7 MILLION OR.81 PERCENT COULD BE CONSIDERED POPULATION ASSISTANCE. THE POPULATION FIGURE REPRESENTS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES ODM HAS NOT MADE ANY PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF POPULATION ASSISTANCE. IT IS OFFICIAL POLICY. HOWEVER, TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS IN REAL TERMS TO THE MULTILATERAL POPULATION ORGANIZATIONS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS.

(B) UK IS SHOWING INCREASING AWARENESS THAT AID FOR POPULATION MATTERS MUST BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY. IN ODM WHITE PAPER ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ("THE CHANGING EMPHASIS IN BRITISH AID POLICIES,) PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT LAST FALL, FIRST PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO THE NEED TO DIRECT MORE RESOURCES TO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES THAT PROVIDE THE POOR WITH JOBS. EDUCATION. HEALTH CARE, AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THE WHITE PAPER RESTATED ODM'S LONGSTANDING POLICY THAT RAISING OF LIVING STANDARDS AND PRESENCE OF ECONOMIC SECURITY APPEAR TO BE NECESSARY REQUISITES OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. SINCE RELEASE OF THE WHITE PAPER THE CABINET OFFICE HAS TAKEN THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF PUBLISHING ONE OF THEIR NORMALLY CLASSIFIED DISCUSSION PAPERS ENTITLED "FUTURE WORLD TRENDS". IT DISCUSSES TRENDS IN POPULATION, RESOURCES, POLLUTION, ETC. AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE

UK POLICIES. POPULATION IS DEALT WITH FIRST AND IS ALSO GIVEN PRIDE OF PLACE IN SECTION ENTITLED ,CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UK". THE SECTION BE-
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GINs WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "ON A GLOBAL SCALE THE MOST URGENT AND IMPORTANT PROBLEM IS THE LIMITATION OF POPULATION GROWTH.. A LARGE REDUCTION IN GROWTH RATE MUST BE ACHIEVED IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." IT IS FURTHER STATED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND RAISE LIVING STANDARDS IN ORDER TO CREATE A SOCIAL FRAMEWORK CONDUCIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF FERTILITY REGULATION. THE CONCLUSION CONTINUES. AND

THIS IS A GENUINE FORWARD STEP IN UK THINKING, WITH THE STATEMENT THAT IT IS ALSO NECESSARY "TO PROVIDE STAFF TRAINING, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE POPULATION PROGRAMS. MORE INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED RESEARCH COULD HELP TO PROVIDE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOTIVES WHICH INFLUENCE THE VOLUNTARY LIMITATION OF FAMILY PLANNING AND TO FIND A MORE SUITABLE MEANS FOR BRINGING THIS ABOUT."

(C) ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS OF UK POPULATION ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED TO UNFPA (1.8 MILLION POUNDS 1975-76) AND IPPF (1.2 MILLION POUNDS 1975-76). IN ODM'S BILATERAL PROGRAMS PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO PRESENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ODM HAS JUST ANNOUNCED, FOR EXAMPLE, A GRANT OF 3 MILLION POUNDS TO SUPPORT FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IN INDIA OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS (1976-79). THE GRANT WILL BE USED FOR STRENGTHENING THE TUBECTOMY

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DIWY-01 HEW-06 /159 W

----- 092158

P R 152122Z APR 76

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PROGRAM IN RURAL AND SEMI-RURAL AREAS THROUGH A PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN 1,000 PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS EACH SERVING RURAL POPULATION OF OVER 100,000 AND 325 SUB-DISTRICT HOSPITALS IN SMALL TOWNS. BILATERAL PROGRAMS
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HAVE BEEN GROWING MORE SLOWLY THAN MULTILATERAL BECAUSE OF THEIR LARGELY RESPONSIVE NATURE. ODM'S POPULATION OFFICERS ARE HOWEVER ACTIVELY PUSHING GEOGRAPHIC DESKS AND BUREAUS/TO SEEK OUT MORE PROGRAMS OF TYPE JUST CITED.

(D) ODM GENERALLY SUPPORTS ALL SIX OF USAID'S POPULATION PROGRAM GOALS. HOWEVER, THEY FEEL DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES SHOULD HAVE LOWER PRIORITY THAN THE OTHERS. IT IS FELT AN EXCELLENT CASE CAN BE MADE FOR FUNDING SUCH PROGRAMS FROM OTHER SOURCES AS THESE STUDIES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL. MORE SPECIFICALLY ODM ALSO SUPPORTS PROGRAMS WHICH HELP COUNTRIES RESPOND TO THE WORLD POPULATION ACTION PLAN. UNDER THE PLAN IT IS INCUMBENT UPON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS THEMSELVES, E.G., ON DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES.

(E) AND (F). IN AFOREMENTIONED WHITE PAPER ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON CONCENTRATION ON EFFORTS TO AID THE POOREST SECTIONS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES. SPECIFICALLY ODM WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED RURAL BASED HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN COMBINATION WITH GENERAL RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. WHILE CONFIRMING THRUST OF THIS POLICY, ODM SOURCES WERE QUICK TO SAY THAT THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE PROVISION OF CONTRACEPTIVES, ETC.

(G) ODM ATTEMPTS TO INSURE THAT THE NATURE AND DIRECTION OF UK'S POPULATION ASSISTANCE WAS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE WORLD POPULATION ACTION PLAN.

(H), 1. POPULATION POLICY AND PROGRAMS ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPT OF ODM. DOUGLAS COOPER IS PRINCIPAL ACTION OFFICER WITHIN THE

DEPT. HOWEVER, AS IT WAS MADE CLEAR DURING RECENT VISIT OF POPULATION COORDINATOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, THERE IS STRONG INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT ON PART OF THE MINISTER REG PRENTICE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY C.W. FOGARTY. AND KENRETH OSBORNE, HEAD OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPT, AMONG OTHERS. IN ADDITION. THE MINISTER HAS CREATED A POPULATION BUREAU TO PROVIDE THE CIVIL SERVANTS WITH TECHNICAL ADVICE. DR. JOAN CHAPMAN. A SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGIST, IS ACTING HEAD OF THE BUREAU. FINALLY DR. JOHN KILGORE, WHO ACTS AS ODM'S MEDICAL ADVISER ON BEHALF OF DEPT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY. HAS RECENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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TAKEN OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL ADVICE ON POPULATION ACTIVITIES.

(H) 2. ODM SOURCES STATE THAT IF ONE TAKES ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN UNAVOIDABLE CONSTRAINTS OF ACTIVITIES OF MULTILATERAL INTERMEDIARIES, ODM FINDS THEM GENERALLY TO BE "USEFULLY EFFECTIVE." SOURCE STATES IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE NON-GOVT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS IPPF ON SAME CRITERIA AS ONE WOULD THE UNFPA. HOWEVER. ODM HAS CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE IN IPPF AND FEELS IT GIVES GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY. ODM FEELS UNFPA HAS DONE A GOOD JOB IN COORDINATING AND LEADING WORLD OPINION AND GATHERING TOGETHER POPULATION RESOURCES. BECAUSE OF THEIR SUCCESS, HOWEVER, UNFPA IS NOW FACED WITH SITUATION WHERE IT HAS MORE DEMANDS FOR ITS ASSISTANCE THAN IT CAN FILL IN THIS REGARD ODM IS ENCOURAGED BY UNFPA INITIATIVES TO CREATE "MULTI-BILATERAL" PROGRAMS. ACCORDING TO SOURCE UNFPA SETS UP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY AND THEN INVITES BILATERAL DONORS TO PARTICIPATE UNDER ITS UMBRELLA. THIS ALLOWS BILATERAL DONORS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNFPA MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE, ALLOWS THEM TO CONTROL TERMS, AND ALSO TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE TRADITIONAL INTERESTS IT ALSO GREATLY REDUCES THE BURDEN ON UNFPA'S LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

(I) ODM'S ODA BUDGET WAS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED FROM THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CUTS IN PROPOSED PUBLIC EXPENDITURE DURING PERIOD 1976-80 ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS ODA WILL GROW IN REAL TERMS 16 PERCENT OVER HIS PERIOD, OR FROM ABOUT 441.3 MILLION POUNDS IN 1976-77 TO 516 MILLION POUNDS BY END OF DECADE. WHILE THIS WILL LEAVE UK STILL SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW DAC OPTIMUM OF .70 PERCENT OF GNP, IT WILL PLACE THEM WELL ABOVE DAC AVERAGE OF .33 PERCENT. ODM SOURCES STATE THAT POPULATION PROGRAMS WILL CLAIM A GROWING SHARE OF THE INCREASE IN ODA THEY DO NOT FORESEE HOWEVER POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTING RESOURCES FROM OTHER AREAS INTO POPULATION PROGRAMS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POPULATION, FAMILY PLANNING, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON05927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760143-0694
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760458/aaaabxdn.tel
Line Count: 278
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 58729
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DONOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPU- LATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS
TAGS: SPDP, EAID, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006